

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims as follows.

1. (original) A method of producing a perovskite complex oxide wherein, at the time of producing a perovskite ( $\text{RTO}_3$ ) complex oxide phase by heat treating a precursor substance that is a powdery starting material containing at least one rare earth element R and at least one transition metal element T, there is used as the precursor substance an amorphous substance containing the R and T components at a content ratio required for producing the complex oxide.
2. (original) A method of producing a perovskite complex oxide according to claim 1, wherein a perovskite complex oxide phase is generated by heat-treating the precursor substance at a temperature of 400 °C – 700 °C.
3. (original) A method of producing a perovskite complex oxide according to claim 1, wherein the amorphous substance is a precipitated substance obtained by precipitation from an aqueous solution containing R ions and T ions using a precipitant.
4. (original) A method of producing a perovskite complex oxide according to claim 1, wherein the amorphous substance is a precipitated substance obtained by precipitation from an aqueous solution containing R ions and T ions using a precipitant and a reducing agent.
5. (currently amended) A method of producing a perovskite complex oxide according to claim 3 [[or 4]], wherein the precipitant is an alkaline carbonate or carbonate containing ammonium ions.
6. (currently amended) A method of producing a perovskite complex oxide according to claim 3 [[or 4]], wherein the precipitant is a combination of ammonia and carbon dioxide.
7. (currently amended) A method of producing a perovskite complex oxide according to claim 4, [[5 or 6]] wherein the reducing agent is a hydrogen-generating compound.

8. (currently amended) A method of producing a perovskite complex oxide according ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ to claim 1, wherein the perovskite complex oxide has a BET specific surface area exceeding  $10 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

9. (original) A precursor substance of a perovskite complex oxide, which is a precursor substance to be subjected to heat treatment for producing a perovskite complex oxide phase composed of an amorphous substance containing R and T components at a content ratio required for producing the complex oxide, where R is at least one rare earth element and T is at least one transition metal element.

10. (original) A precursor substance according to claim 9, wherein part of R is replaced by an alkali earth metal.